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Editorials

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The Dentoscope

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EDITORIAL SECTION

THE OLD BECOMES NEW

TIS now that the propelling lure of onrushing spring inspires in man a spirit of rejuvenation which fires him to new hopes and vim for unprecedented undertakings. It is the season when we view, with veritable awe and admiration, the marvels of external change that take place, "in the twinkling of an eye," so it seems, by means of the adroit skill of the human hand or the unfathomed power of Nature. Often, during this seasonal revival, the animate and the inanimate around us take on new and attractive forms with almost terrifying swiftness. A dash of paint here, a nail driven there, in the process of this "Spring Transformation," has often wrought miracles in satisfying a long-felt aesthetic desire and utilitarian demand.

At a casual glance, one would immediately conclude that this proverbial "Spring Housecleaning" is in full force in "Our Dental Home," but, upon closer investigation, the constant ring of the carpenter's hammer, the roar of the plumber's blow torch, and the grinding of the electrician's tools are all soon convincing evidences that changes beyond those of the ordinary seasonal routine are under way. All of this bustle of busy workmen is the process by which the "Old" is being converted into the "New" in the College of Dentistry.

Extensive renovation of the physical plant which will, doubtless, bring about definite innovations in the organization, is rapidly taking on form in the old building. The plan proceeds, systematically, with three distinct phases of improvement to be effected. First, remodelling of a general nature, such as, the reflooring of the entire second floor, improved wiring throughout, the modernizing of plumbing, the repainting of interior and exterior of the structure, is the plan by which the building will be made more sightly. Second, specific emphasis is being placed upon the utilization of hitherto wasted and unnecessary space for more adequate laboratories on the second floor for Dental Histology and Dental Pathology, for Oral Anatomy and Orthodontia Technics, for Operative Technics and Instructors. Additional classrooms, rest rooms for students, personnel, instructors, and the public are included in the revamping. The ground floor will be devoted to improved laboratories for Prosthetic Dentistry, Crown and Bridgework and Ceramics and additional storeroom space. The third phase of the ren-

ovation plan deals with the rearrangement of clinical laboratories and related departments for the direct purpose of effecting a closer co-ordination with the clinic proper. At the south end of the clinic, a small laboratory for Clinical Prosthesis and a small private operatory have been constructed. The examining room and improved waiting room facilities for patients will be placed in closer proximity to activities of the clinic. In the remodelling of the Oral Surgery Clinic, there will be included a separate operating room for general anesthetic patients, an adequate recovery room, and an office for the department. The record and supply rooms and the office of the Superintendent of Clinics will be rearranged for greater efficiency.

We are happy to acknowledge the sources of the funds for this extensive renovation project. Improvement of this and other divisions of the University have been provided through the Public Works Administration and the Civil Works Administration, relief agencies of the "New Deal."

For purely sentimental reasons, no doubt, many of our former graduates and present students will always hold cherished memories of those historic traditions of bygone which are wrapped up in the old structure as it stood for more than a half century. Nevertheless, our more progressive spirit prompts us to relinquish, willingly, the "Old" for the "New" since it is a significant step toward necessary growth in modern advantages in dentistry at Howard University. There are no means of predicting how far this physical transformation may serve as an incentive, psychologically, for renewed and happy participation in carrying on the work "thus far so nobly advanced."

OUR LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

OF ALL facilities made available to student use, too much emphasis cannot be placed upon the importance of the library. The project of developing a dental library for the College of Dentistry has received considerable attention in recent years, and, as the result of liberal gifts from friends within the University and elsewhere, progress is being made.

By a gift of two thousand dollars from the Carnegie Foundation in 1930, a library for the College of Dentistry was established. In addition to this, the Trustees of Howard University made provision in the budget for subscriptions to the leading dental periodicals of the United

States, Canada, and Great Britain, and a noteworthy addition of books has been accumulated.

The Dental Library of Harvard University made a substantial gift of complete and incomplete volumes of dental periodicals. Many of the incomplete volumes were made complete by Dr. William J. Gies, who volunteered to supply, as far as possible, the needed numbers.

Through the courtesy of Northwestern University Dental School, a substantial contribution has been made by way of five complete volumes of the American Dental Association Journal, five complete volumes of the Dominion Dental Journal, six hundred and forty-one dental journals, and sixty-five volumes of periodicals ready for binding. In addition, Dr. Wiley L. Overholser of Winamac, Indiana, an alumnus of Northwestern University Dental School, presented a very acceptable gift of twenty complete volumes of the Dental Cosmos and Volumes I and II of the Ohio State Dental Journal. Without such manifestations of interest as expressed in the gifts mentioned, the facilities of the library would have been impaired, materially.

In the past five years, the increased budget has permitted the purchase of a number of additional books of value. Several hundred dollars have been spent recently by way of adding to the store of dental literature and all of the most recent books in Dentistry are included in the collection. While the content of the library is now six hundred and seventy-five bound volumes, and subscriptions to all of the leading dental publications, this forms a mere nucleus of the dental library which we hope to make so inclusive that it will be sufficiently adequate to supply students with the necessary facilities without the need of leaving the premises for dental references or research.

By means of the recent Federal Emergency Relief Administration, it has been possible, by student library assistants, to extend the use of the library to five evenings a week. The attendance during these evening periods bespeaks the students' appreciation of the service that the library is able to render. Therefore, one of the major objectives in our Future Program is to encourage and receive greater support for this part of the organization of the College of Dentistry that the students might be guaranteed at Howard University every advantage in library facilities.

* THE PROBLEM OF RECRUITING DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

C'EST la guerre—"It is the war." This was the manner in which the French explained the train of ill-omened events that generally befell them from 1914 to 1919. "It is the depression," is the American explanation of the dense shadows of the war, reflected, to be sure, after an interval, but in the minds of many, cast by the focus of that sad event.

Regardless of the horrors of the depression, approximately in some small degree, the sufferings of the war and its issues are both salutary and banal. One of the salutary effects of the Spanish-American War was the realization of the fact that there were more casualties from disease than from bullets, with the result that science devoted itself to the prevention of such a recurrence, and public health benefited by the development of anti-typhoid inoculations and other preventive measures. The social sciences and agencies with the health forces are analyzing in similar manner the devastations of our generation, with a view to corrections and preventions for the future. The topic to which they are giving emphasis is health. In New York and other places, it is being shown that depression health is sixty-one per cent poorer than health in normal times, and that the preponderance in increase of illness is among children. Nor is our own group without much emphasis, at this time, in this very health issue.

Three factors which have given impetus to the study of the factors affecting Negro health during the past year are as follows: The opening of the new Provident Hospital in Chicago, with its tie-up with Chicago University; the investigation of the Harlem Hospital under the auspices of the N.A.A.C.P., and the splendid book, "*The Negro Professional Man and the Community*," under the authorship of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, which is being so favorably received by the press.

This focusing of attention on Negro health reveals no finding more absorbing than the fact that today there are only sixty-eight Negro students registered in Dental Colleges, while there are over seven thousand students of the Caucasian groups registered in schools of like quality. Of these sixty-eight students, almost fifty per cent are registered at Howard University Dental College, about thirty per cent at the Meharry Dental College, and the other twenty per cent plus are in the various colleges of the North, East, and West. Further study of the statistics shows that, during 1932-33, there were only thirty-six Negro

* By courtesy of Dr. Walter B. Garvin.

graduates in Dentistry from dental colleges in the whole United States, and that this number is less than twenty-five per cent of the number entering this field in the two or three prior years.

Even in the boom days of dental education, we were confronted with an inadequate number of graduates to balance the losses to the profession through deaths and other factors. The problem of insufficient total numbers of practicing dentists to the total Negro population was amazing, and the problem of distribution of dentists to the communities where the preponderance of the Negro population dwelt was even more serious. But, with the marked diminution of recruits entering the ranks, the question grows alarmingly acute. There are only a little fewer than two thousand Negro dentists in the United States, while there are almost twenty-five thousand clergymen, about four thousand physicians, and over fifty thousand school teachers. Of course, of the major professions among us, dentists excel, numerically, only the lawyers, the total number of the latter being around thirteen hundred.

As concerns the problem of distribution, although the Negro population of the South is almost four hundred per cent of that of the North, there are approximately eight per cent more Negro dentists in the North than in the South. In the South, there is one Negro dentist per 11,706 of Negro population, while there is one white dentist per 2,386 of white population. In the North, there is one Negro dentist per 2,604 of Negro population, while there is one white dentist for every 1,496 of white population.

These are the facts. *Est ce la guerre?* "Is it the depression?" What shall be the solution?

From the foregoing data, it is clear that the Negro has a peculiar problem in this relation. Truly enough, to the lay, it is a question of economics; however, to the profession, it is, primarily, a question of the education of the public to a state of oral health consciousness; and, secondarily, it is a matter of distribution, beclouded by the temporary economic disadvantage, which has been suffered, equally, by every professional group. The solution of the economic factor will come about automatically with the upswing of national prosperity. Therefore, to emphasize the present financial angle is to take a short-sighted view, which is a popular misconception of the facts involved. The real problem for serious consideration is the need for recruiting the ranks sufficiently to replace the yearly losses, and to supply, in addition, an adequate number to serve the public health needs, in ratio to the population, even in the forsaken and untouched areas, which are so prevalent throughout the South.

LOOKING BACK OVER THE YEAR

A RÉSUMÉ of the year reflects many interesting activities and significant results for the College of Dentistry. In short, it has been a busy year for both student and teacher.

The formal opening of school ushered in a comparatively large, enthusiastic, and serious-minded Freshman class, the size of which tripled that of last year's. This encouragement, in itself, from the outset, gave added impetus to the general outlook for the year's work. Especially was this increase in numbers gratifying when the "signs of the times," economically, forecast a rather gloomy picture over the prospects for the enrollment and retention of students, many of whom had suffered financial reverses. This trend, however, was greatly counteracted by the spirited enrollment campaign sponsored by the faculty.

That the College of Dentistry of Howard University is doing an effective share in impressing upon the minds of young men and women the importance of the dental profession is attested to by the strikingly cosmopolitan Freshman class. Students of this group hail from far corners of the earth, as well as from distant sections of our country. An inventory of the class membership shows that the British West Indies, South America, and Russia, alone, have nine representatives. The remaining members of the class hail from ten states including the Atlantic, Pacific, Middle West and Southern States. Such a wide distribution of students from one class is indicative of the far-reaching public confidence enjoyed by the College of Dentistry.

Another indication of desired progress was given in the return of two graduates of Dentistry of Howard University who came back to enter into post-graduate work. Dr. Stephen D. Miller, of the class of 1920, after twelve years of successful practice in Springfield and St. Louis, Missouri, saw fit to return to his Alma Mater for additional work in Clinical Dentistry. The interest and appreciation of the work expressed by an alumnus of Dr. Miller's experience and ability serves as an index to the nature of the work offered. Like interest in the post-graduate courses was shown by a last year's graduate in the person of Dr. Garey M. Browne, of Washington, D. C. Since the completion of this course, Dr. Browne has taken and successfully passed the District Board Dental Examination. He contemplates opening an office shortly. Doubtless, the presence of alumni within the student ranks will prove a wholesome and stimulating influence.

A noteworthy precedent was set in the College of Dentistry this year by the extensive aid given to students by way of tuition scholarships. In view of the financial difficulties which students, especially in the pro-

fessions, have encountered during this depression, the Faculty of Dentistry set the pace by establishing a "Faculty Scholarship" to be awarded to a candidate for the Freshman class, on the basis of scholastic promise and demonstrated need.

The occasion of this writing also offers a splendid opportunity to give a public expression of gratitude to Dr. Louise C. Ball, a member of the Board of Trustees of Howard University, for her generous offer of material aid by way of a tuition scholarship. This award is to be made to a worthy young woman of high scholastic attainment, who is interested in dentistry as a career. In view of the pending plans for a class for Dental Hygienists to be inaugurated at the opening of the ensuing year, Dr. Ball has, again, offered encouragement in the form of a tuition scholarship to be given to a young woman of high scholastic attainment who wishes to pursue the Dental Hygienist course.

In addition to these awards, the University, through its Board of Trustees, set aside seven and a half per cent of the money collected from student fees to be used for scholarships. Scholarship grants from this fund were made to five dental students. Again, through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration has come a new source of student assistance. Under this project, three dental students have received work scholarships. This brings the total number to nine students who have received scholarship aid in the College of Dentistry during the year. This unprecedented effort to relieve financial stress among students on the part of the faculty, trustees, and the Federal Government, not only manifests the wide-spread need, but it bespeaks the courage and devotion of friends of education.

The Faculty of the College of Dentistry has made worthy contributions in progressive phases of the profession aside from those in the classroom. A creditable representation was made at many important dental conventions.

At the Annual Meeting of the National Dental Association held in Atlantic City, clinicians and essayists, representative of every department in the College, made presentations. The following table or chair clinics were given by members of the staff:

"Demonstration in Pressing Resovin and Curing Luxene"—Dr. Adolphus Walton.

"Preparation for Porcelain Jacket Crown" and "Ceramics for Porcelain Jacket Crown"—Dr. Claude T. Ferebee.

"Orthodontia"—Dr. Emmett J. Scott.

"Dental Pathology in Relation to Roentgenology" and "Apicoectomy"—Dr. John A. Turner.

"Crown and Bridge"—Dr. Percy A. Fitzgerald.

"Root Canal Therapy"—Dr. Frederic P. Barrier.

"Partial Denture Impression Technics"—Dr. Eugene E. T. Mavritte.

Dr. Walton also presented an essay and conducted an open forum on "Practical Dental Problems."

An essay entitled "Ethics in Dentistry, Past, Present and Future," was presented by Dr. Russell A. Dixon, Dean of the College of Dentistry. The convention was very ably presided over by Dr. Jackson L. Davis, vice-president of the organization and instructor in the Department of Oral Medicine.

Another feature of singular interest, which was contributed by the dental faculty, was that of a project placed on exhibition at the Centennial Dental Congress of the Century of Progress Exposition held in Chicago. Drs. Dixon, Fitzgerald, and Hendrick were present at this Congress at which more than twelve thousand dentists were in attendance.

Immediately following this convention was the Annual Meeting of the National Medical Association at which Dr. P. A. Fitzgerald of the Crown and Bridge Department gave a clinic in "Ceramics."

Dean Dixon was guest of the First and Second District Dental Society of New York at the Conference of physicians and dentists held in connection with the Ninth Annual Session of the Society, December 4-8, 1933. Dr. Dixon was invited to discuss the theme presented by Dean M. C. Winternitz of Yale University Medical School. The program in general was rich in professional value and many outstanding educators of the East made major contributions.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, which is made up of the outstanding educators and authorities in every field of science, convened in Boston during the Christmas holidays. Dr. Dixon enjoyed the distinction of appearing on the program. He presented an essay, illustrated by lantern slides, entitled, "Histopathological Changes in Pulp and Dentine Under Different Filling Materials." This paper dealt with research conducted by Dr. Dixon in connection with his graduate work at Northwestern University.

By special invitation, this same dissertation was presented before the International Association for Dental Research held in Chicago. Other representatives of Howard University attending this meeting and the American Association of Dental Schools, which directly followed it, were Drs. Garvin, Hendrick, Turner, and Walton. The latter convention proved to be of momentous value because of the exhaustive report of the "Committee on Curriculum" based on a scientific study of dental curricula for the past three years.

By courtesy of the American Dental Society of Europe, Dr. Dixon has been placed on program to present an essay on a phase of his research work. The meeting will be held at The Hague, Holland, during Whitsuntide, May 17-21, 1934.

It is always a pleasure to do honor to those within the ranks, who, by some special achievement, have been given noteworthy recognition. Dr. Emmett J. Scott, Instructor in Orthodontia, was given membership in a chapter of the honorary fraternity, Omicron Kappa Upsilon, which was recently organized at Harvard University in recognition of noteworthy scholarship. Upon Dr. Russell A. Dixon was conferred the degree of Master of Science in Dentistry by Northwestern University Dental School after the completion of graduate research there. A part of his laboratory material was prepared by him in the School of Medicine of Howard University.

By thus looking back over the year, one fact is evident—that the propelling force which is driving the educational program of the College of Dentistry steadily forward exists in the conscientious attitude and full appreciation of the progress now being made. With the appointment of Miss Alicia P. McKinney, the prospective organization of the department for Dental Hygienists at Howard University, at the beginning of the ensuing year, will be a certainty. Miss McKinney is a graduate of the Oral Hygiene Department of the Columbia University School of Dental and Oral Surgery, New York. This department was organized in 1916 by our dental Trustee, Dr. Louise C. Ball, who presided over it two years as its dean. It was the first department for the training of dental hygienists to be formed in connection with a university.

Before the close of the school year, the physical efficiency of the organization will be greatly increased by the extensive remodelling and renovation of the building which is already under way. The ultimate advantages to the college offered by this new improvement will be:

A closer co-ordination of the various correlated units of instruction; the improvement in laboratory space and equipment; and, finally, more cheerful and inviting surroundings in which to "carry on."

By way of a summary, it may be said that the fundamental policy directing the work of the College of Dentistry is that it is striving, above all else, to give to its young men and women the very best by way of an educational and practical background that the profession has to offer.